



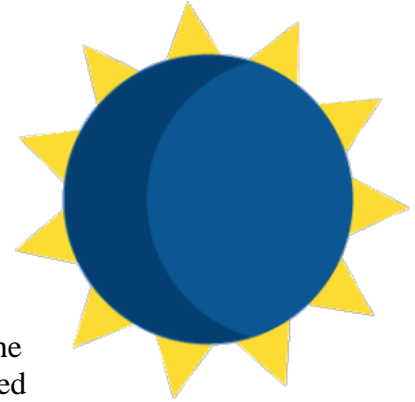
THOMAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

200 N. Pinetree Blvd., Thomasville, GA 31792 | 229-225-4380 phone | 229-225-5012 fax

August 18, 2017

Dear Parents,

Thomas County Schools will be observing the “The Great American Solar Eclipse” on August 21st. To allow students to fully appreciate the experience, the school day in Thomas County Schools will be extended by 30 minutes on the day of the eclipse. **Unless you are otherwise notified, ALL DISMISSALS INCLUDING BUS ROUTES WILL BE DELAYED 30 MINUTES ON MONDAY, AUGUST 21.**



With safety as a top priority, all students will wear approved viewing glasses and will be monitored closely during the viewing event. School officials warn that individuals should not attempt to view the eclipse without approved safety glasses. Teachers are preparing students for the event and teaching them how to use their safety glasses to view the eclipse.

Children will be closely monitored during the event, and parents who do not wish for their children to participate may opt their children out of the activity. “Opt out” forms have been provided to students for parents who wish for their children to stay inside and not participate in this activity. You may also obtain a copy of the opt out form from your child’s teacher or download a copy from our website.

If you need to pick your child up early for any reason on Monday, August 21, please do so by 1:45 p.m. Once students go outside for the event, it will be difficult to locate students for sign out.

You may find additional information about the solar eclipse on the Thomas County School System’s website.

If you have questions about specific plans for your student’s class to observe the eclipse, please contact your child’s teacher or principal.

Sincerely,

Dusty Kornegay, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board of Education
David Dawson • Charles Evans • Derwood Hickey
Nancy Hiers • Mark NeSmith • Dan Stewart • Kay Streets

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Solar Eclipse Viewing Opt-Out Form

Please return this signed form if you DO NOT want your child to participate in the solar eclipse event.

On August 21, 2017, Thomas County Schools will be in the path of nearly 90% totality for the solar eclipse. This event is being called “The Great American Solar Eclipse,” because it is the first time since 1918 a solar eclipse will be visible on a path across the entire continental United States. Thomas County Schools is planning a viewing opportunity for all of our schools to experience this once-in-a-lifetime event on school campus.

The school system has purchased eclipse-safe viewing glasses for all students, faculty, and staff. Safety is always a top priority. We will take all precautionary measures to make this experience both safe and enjoyable. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun. Students will not be permitted to look at the partially eclipsed sun through unfiltered cameras, telescopes, binoculars, or other optical devices, with or without glasses.

(For more information on viewing the eclipse safely to prevent eye damage, please visit <http://eclipse.semo.edu/safety>.)

If you do not want your child to participate in this event, please complete this Opt-Out form. Students whose parents do not complete this form will be able to participate.

If you DO NOT want your child to participate in the solar eclipse event, please sign below and return.

I/We, parent(s)/guardian(s) of _____, **DO NOT** give consent for my/our son/daughter to participate in this school-approved activity to view “The Great American Solar Eclipse” on August 21, 2017.
